

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 - 35. (Canceled)

36. (New) A process for preparing neolignan 3-ethyl-2-methyl-3-(2,4,5-trimethoxy)phenyl-1-(2,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)phenyl-1-propene of formula II by DDQ dimerisation of toxic  $\beta$ -asarone or commercial available calamus oil containing  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$ -dihydroasrones, said process comprising steps of:

- (a) stirring dihydroasrone of formula (I) with alcohol, palladium on activated charcoal and ammonium formate at room temperature under nitrogen atmosphere;
- (b) filtering and evaporating the solvent under reduced pressure to obtain 2,4,5-trimethoxyphenylpropane,
- (c) mixing 2,4,5-trimethoxyphenylpropane obtained in step (c) with DDQ, for about 10-15 minutes on ice in presence of organic acid at room temperature for overnight,
- (d) filtering the precipitated DDQH<sub>3</sub>,
- (e) washing the filtered residue with organic acid,
- (f) evaporating the organic acid of step (e), to obtain a concentrated mixture,
- (g) pouring and mixing the concentrated mixture of step (f) with water,
- (h) extracting the mixture of step (g) with an aliphatic hydrogenated hydrocarbon,
- (i) washing the organic layer obtained in step (h) with brine and 10% sodium bicarbonate followed by second washing again with brine,
- (j) drying the organic layer obtained in step (i) with sodium sulfate to obtain a residue,
- (k) purifying the residue obtained in step (j) over silica gel using hexane-ethylacetate mixture to obtain three sets of fractions,
- (l) crystallizing the fractions of step (k) with hexane and methanol, and
- (m) identifying the crystallized fractions of step (l) as  $\alpha$ -asarone of formula IIa, 1-(2,4,5-trimethoxy)phenyl-1-propanone of formula IIb and 3-ethyl-2-methyl-3-(2,4,5-trimethoxy)phenyl-1-(2,4,5-trimethoxy)phenyl-1-propene of formula II.

37. (New) A process as claimed in claim 36, wherein in step (c) the organic acid is selected from group comprising of acetic acid or propionic acid.

38. (New) A process as claimed in claim 37, wherein organic acid is acetic acid.

39. (New) A process as claimed in claim 36, wherein step (e) the organic acid is acetic acid.

40. (New) A process as claimed in claim 36, wherein in step (h) the organic solvent is selected from group comprising of dichloromethane, carbontetrachloride or chloroform.

41. (New) A process as claimed in claim 36, wherein in step (c) the organic acid is selected is dichloromethane.

42. (New) A process as claimed in claim 36, wherein step (a) the effective molar ratio of dihydroasarone and DDQ is in the range of 1:1 to 1:1.2.

43. (New) A process as claimed in claim 36, wherein the neolignan obtained in step (m) is NEOALSA-1.

44. (New) A process as claimed in claim 36, wherein the dihydroasarone is obtained from isolated Asarones from crude calamus oil by loading on silica gel column and eluting with hexane.